

S.B. 323

Written Proponent Testimony

November 11, 2024

**Senate General Government Committee
Jo Ann Davidson Ohio Leadership Institute - Group Letter**

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the Senate General Government Committee:

As graduates of the Jo Ann Davidson Ohio Leadership Institute, we are writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 323, which would designate September 28th as Speaker Jo Ann Davidson Day in Ohio. This bill honors the legacy of a trailblazing leader whose dedication, resilience, and vision have inspired countless women to pursue impactful careers in government, business, and community service.

Speaker Davidson's contributions to Ohio's public life have been monumental. As the first female Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, she broke through barriers that have allowed more women to step forward as leaders in our state. Her achievements paved the way for future generations of women, instilling in us the belief that we can lead with integrity and purpose in any role we pursue.

Through her dedication to public service and her advocacy for women in leadership, Speaker Davidson has created a legacy that continues to shape our lives and careers. The Jo Ann Davidson Ohio Leadership Institute has been an invaluable platform for training and empowering hundreds of women to engage with and transform our communities. This institute, founded by Speaker Davidson, has given us the tools, confidence, and networks needed to make meaningful contributions across Ohio and beyond.

Designating September 28th as Speaker Jo Ann Davidson Day would not only recognize her significant contributions to the state but also serve as a lasting reminder of the importance of female leadership and civic engagement. This day would be an opportunity each year to honor her legacy and inspire others to follow in her footsteps.

We urge you to support SB 323 and to formally recognize Speaker Davidson's enduring impact on Ohio and the many women she has empowered. Thank you for considering this important measure.

Sincerely,

Graduates of the Jo Ann Davidson Ohio Leadership Institute (see enclosed for full list.)

S.B. 323

Written Proponent Testimony

November 11, 2024

Senate General Government Committee

Jo Ann Davidson Ohio Leadership Institute - Group Letter

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. MaryBeth Hammond - Class of 2013 | 18. Katie Elson - Class of 2008 |
| 2. Kathryn Lynn Whittington - JADOLI Graduate | 19. Jeanne Porter - Class of 2007 |
| 3. Amy Koorn - JADOLI Graduate | 20. Christina Wagner Schepis - Class of 2015 |
| 4. Kristie Davis - Class of 2017 | 21. Sandra Brasington - Class of 2007 |
| 5. Billie Fiore Zimmers - Class of 2003 | 22. Katie DeLand - Class of 2020 |
| 6. Pamela Mowry - Class of 2005 | 23. Margie Saull - Class of 2014 |
| 7. Emily McConnell Berner - Class of 2020 | 24. Michael-Lynn Evans - JADOLI Graduate |
| 8. Jody Beall O'Brien - Class of 1993 | 25. Lisa Hoying - Class of 2022 |
| 9. Missy Anthony - Class of 2019 | 26. Carrie Charles - Class of 2023 |
| 10. Courtney Worley - Class of 2023 | 27. Kathy Eshelman - JADOLI Graduate |
| 11. Jan Roberts Hills - Class of 2005 | 28. Stephanie Kromer - Class of 2023 |
| 12. Valoria Hoover - Class of 2008 | 29. Liza Gerken Schuller - Class of 2011 |
| 13. Andrea Helfrich - Class of 2018 | 30. Becca Wolfgram Mount - Class of 2022 |
| 14. Christa Colasante - Class of 2022 | 31. Katie Elson - Class of 2008 |
| 15. Patti Rockey - Class of 2009 | 32. Deb Myers - Class of 2023 |
| 16. Chelsea Wonski-Morgan - Class of 2022 | 33. Sarah Huffman - Class of 2019 |
| 17. Lindsey Queen - Class of 2016 | |

S.B. 323

Written Proponent Testimony

November 11, 2024

Senate General Government Committee

Jo Ann Davidson Ohio Leadership Institute - Group Letter